

With Dr. Lawton's Compliments.



BOROUGH OF POOLE.

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY,

AND TO THE

POOLE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1895.

Printed by Order of the Urban and Port Sanitary
Authorities.

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PENNEY, HALLETT AND CO., PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE.

TO THE POOLE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

—O—

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the annual report of the health of the Poole Urban Sanitary District for the year ending December 31st, 1895.

Population.—Assuming that the rate of increase in the decade 1881-91 still continues, I estimate the population of the district to be 17,050 to the middle of the year, and 17,246 to the end of the year. Mr. Elford, the Borough Surveyor, estimates the population at 18,500.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year was 257 males and 240 females, making a total of 497. Hence the birthrate was 29·56 per 1,000. There was a decrease of 41 as compared with 1894.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered during the year was 133 males and 125 females, making a total of 258. Hence the Death-rate was 15·13 per 1,000. There was an increase of 29 Deaths as compared with 1894. Calculating on the Borough Surveyor's estimate, the Death-rate would be 14 per 1,000.

The Infantile Death-rate was 12·67 per 100.

The Zymotic Death-rate was 0·17 per 1,000.

The monthly returns of Births and Deaths was as follows:—

MONTH.		BIRTHS.		DEATHS.
January	...	46	...	34
February	...	47	...	32
March	...	40	...	24
April	...	42	...	19
May	...	41	...	16
June	...	31	...	22
July	...	45	...	16
August	...	36	...	13
September	...	39	...	22
October	...	43	...	26
November	...	42	...	12
December	...	45	...	24

The various Districts, Parishes and Hospitals were credited with the following number of Deaths :—

St. James', Poole, West side of High Street	62
„ „ East „ „	66
Poole Harbour	5
Longfleet	23
Parkstone	65
Hamworthy	11
Union Workhouse	13
Fever Hospital	1
Lady Wimborne's Hospital	12

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Under 1 year	63
Between 1 and 5 years	19
„ 5 „ 15 „	5
„ 15 „ 25 „	16
„ 25 „ 65 „	83
Over 65 years	72

Of those over 65 years of age, sixteen were between 80 and 90, and one was over 90.

According to the returns forwarded me, the Deaths registered were credited as follows :—

	TOTAL.	Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.
<i>Small Pox.</i> —	None		
<i>Scarlatina.</i> —	1		1
<i>Diphtheria.</i> —	None		
<i>Croup (Membranous).</i> —	1		1
<i>Typhus Fever.</i> —	None		
<i>Typhoid Fever.</i> —	1		1
<i>Continued Fever.</i> —	None		
<i>Relapsing Fever.</i> —	None		
<i>Puerperal Fever.</i> —	None		
<i>Cholera.</i> —	None		
<i>Erysipelas.</i> —	1		1
<i>Measles.</i> —	None		
<i>Whooping Cough.</i> —	None		
<i>Diarrhœa and Dysentery.</i> —	4	3	1
<i>Rheumatic Fever.</i> —	2	1	1
<i>Ague.</i> —	None		
<i>Phthisis.</i> —	22	1	21
<i>Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.</i> —	41	15	26
<i>Heart Diseases.</i> —	12		12
<i>Influenza.</i> —	6	1	5
<i>Injuries.</i> —	15	5	10
<i>All other Diseases.</i> —	152	56	96

In reviewing the Health History of the Borough for the past year, it will be well, according to my usual custom, to follow the foregoing Analysis.

Scarlatina caused one Death, viz. :—

1.—Female, aged 12 years, The Fever Hospital, January 5th.

This case did not belong to the District, but was imported from Brownsea Island to the Fever Hospital.

Membranous Croup caused one Death, viz. :—

1.—Female, aged 10 years, Britannia Road, Parkstone, Sept. 9th.

Typhoid Fever caused one Death, viz. :—

1.—Female, aged 21 years, Victoria Terrace, Baiter, Poole, May 11th.

The premises where this patient lived were very damp, and the cesspool was overful.

Erysipelas caused one Death, viz. :—

1.—Female, aged 51 years, South Road, Poole, July 22nd.

Diarrhœa caused four Deaths, viz. :—

1.—Male, aged 4 months, Chapel Road, Parkstone, August 29th.

2.—Female „ 5 „ „ Thames Street, Poole, September 15th.

3.— „ „ 67 years, Sandy Lane, Parkstone, October 1st.

4.—Male, „ 6 months, Maple Road, Longfleet, „ „

There was nothing of a Zymotic nature in these cases.

Rheumatic Fever caused two Deaths.

Phthisis caused twenty-two Deaths, giving a Death-rate of 1.29 per 1,000. This number is six more than in 1894, and three less than in 1893.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, &c., caused forty-one Deaths.

Heart Diseases caused twelve Deaths.

Influenza caused six Deaths.

Injuries caused fifteen Deaths. Six of these were cases of drowning; three were cases of infants suffocated; two were suicidal cut throats; three were due to accidents; one was a case in which an infant was first murdered and then thrown into the harbour.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—Under this Act 77 Certificates of 75 cases were received from Medical Practitioners, and 63 Notices from Householdors or Relatives of persons affected with Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The following is an Analysis of localities and diseases.

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphth- eria.	Erysip- elas.	Typhoid Fever.	TOTAL
January ...	Poole			1		} 3
	Longfleet	1		1		
February	Poole	3				3
March ...	Poole	2		1		} 6
	Longfleet			1		
	Parkstone		1	1		
April ...	Poole			1		} 6
	Longfleet	3				
	Parkstone	1		1		
May ...	Poole			2	1	} 6
	Parkstone		2	1		
June ...	Poole	2		1	2	} 10
	Parkstone	1	2	1	1	
July ...	Poole			1		1
August ...	Poole			1		} 5
	Longfleet		4			
September	Poole	2	2	4	1	} 14
	Longfleet			1		
	Parkstone	2	2			
October ...	Poole	3	1	2		} 7
	Longfleet			1		
November	Poole			1		} 5
	Longfleet	1				
	Parkstone		1	2		
December	Poole		1			} 9
	Longfleet	1	1	2		
	Parkstone	3	1			
		25	18	27	5	75
Poole ...	...	12	4	15	3	34
Parkstone ...	...	7	9	6	1	23
Longfleet ...	...	6	5	6	1	18
Hamworthy ...	...	0	0	0	0	0
		25	18	27	5	75

Scarlet Fever.—May and July were the only two months during which no case was notified. At no time can the disease be said to have been epidemic. Excepting in the instances where two or three cases occurred in the same house, the cases were scattered. On March 30th, a young woman in the employ of Messrs. Morgan and Co., Drapers, Shaftesbury, was sent in a carriage by road all the way from Shaftesbury to Poole, where she arrived at midnight. The patient subsequently developed Rheumatic Fever. I am informed that the patient was seen by Dr. Evans, of Shaftesbury, previous to her exportation, yet this gentleman had not the courtesy to communicate the fact of a dangerous infectious disease being sent into the Poole district to the Medical Officer of Health, or any other Sanitary Official. The practice of exporting cases of Scarlet Fever seems to obtain in Shaftesbury, for in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Mere, for the year 1894, he notes a similar case. No case proved fatal.

Diphtheria.—Parkstone was again the district in which this disease was prevalent. In several instances new comers were affected. In Longfleet, three of the five cases occurred in one family.

Erysipelas.—With the exception of February, all the months are credited with cases of this disease. One case only proved fatal.

Typhoid Fever.—The cases of this disease occurred in May, June, and September. All were isolated cases. One proved fatal.

The proportion of notified disease to the population was 4.39 per 1000, *i.e.*, the Zymotic sick rate. In 1894 there were 105 cases notified, hence there was a decrease of 30.

I am pleased to report that in only 12 instances did the householder or nearest relative fail to notify to the Medical Officer of Health. This is a considerable improvement on the previous year. Eight of the delinquents resided in Parkstone.

Fever Hospital.—Three patients were admitted during the year. The admissions were as follows :—

SEX.	DISEASE.	ADMITTED.	DISCHARGED.
1.—Female ...	Scarlet Fever ...	January 4th ...	Died January 5th.
2.— „ ...	„ ...	February 28th	March 23rd.
3.— „ ...	Diphtheria ...	December 5th	December 24th.

The first case was admitted from Brownsea Island at the special request of Captain K. R. Balfour. The second was my own daughter. The third was from a lane off Lagland, her relatives not having sufficient accommodation in their house for her.

I will now proceed to review the Sanitary Work done during the year.

Scavenging, Flushing, &c.—The Scavenging and Flushing of the Streets, and the removal of the night soil have been regularly and satisfactorily carried out. One complaint only was made to me as to delay in emptying cesspools.

Water Supply.—The Poole Water Works Company's supply during the past year has been the same as regards quality and quantity as in previous years. It would be materially to the interest, both of the Company and their customers, if some steps were taken to prevent the enormous quantity of water that is allowed to run to waste; the Company would save considerably in the cost of pumping and other working expenses, while their customers would be sure of a constant supply during the summer, to say nothing of the desirability of a decreased rate. Two samples of well water were submitted to me for analysis; both were good soft waters, one, however, required the well to be cleansed and cemented for a distance of eight feet from the surface.

Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses.—These were inspected half-yearly by myself and the Sanitary Inspector. There are seven slaughter-houses in the district. At the April inspection three were noted as in "good" condition, three as in "fair" condition, and one as "dirty." At the October inspection, two were noted as "good," three as "fair," and two as "dirty." The number of bake-houses varies. At the April inspection, seven were noted as "very good," ten as "good," twelve as "fair," and five as "dirty;" to one admission could not be obtained. At the October inspection, three were voted as "very good," nineteen as "good," nine as "fair," and two as "dirty;" to one admission could not be obtained. Instructions to cleanse and whitewash were given in every instance of "dirty." The same general condition of bake-houses and slaughter-houses continues—none, however, are underground.

Factories and Workshops.—These were inspected twice during the year by the Sanitary Inspector and were found generally to be in good condition.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops.—As Dr. Bulstrode's recent remarks under this heading in his report on The Re-inspection of Poole are fresh in your recollections I will not recapitulate them. Both the Sanitary Inspector and myself would be glad to be supplied with a sufficient number of copies of Bye-laws and regulations on this subject in order that we may properly distribute them.

Premises in an Unsanitary Condition or Unfit for Human Habitation.—Several instances of premises in an unsanitary condition were reported to and inspected by me. On December 11th, in

company with the Sanitary Inspector, I inspected a tenement in Perry Gardens, Lagland, and finding the house and premises to be dark, dirty, damp, dilapidated, and generally unsanitary, I gave a certificate that they were unfit for human habitation, and recommended that a closing order be obtained.

Unsound Food.—In one instance only was it necessary to condemn food as unfit, viz. : 30 boxes of bloaters, on September 14th. These were ordered to be destroyed.

Disinfection.—The disinfection of premises where cases of Infectious Disease had occurred was very thoroughly and effectively carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant.

The Sewage Disposal Scheme.—The Branksome Park section is now complete, and connections with houses, &c., will soon be in progress. The outfall of the other sections is laid from below the Railway Arches, at Parkstone, to high water mark.

Bye-laws.—The much needed revision and addition to your Bye-laws is complete. They were submitted to the Local Government Board in June, but, as yet, have not been approved and passed by that body.

In conformity with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have, as in previous years, made frequent inspections of the various parts of the District.

I have to acknowledge the very valuable assistance rendered me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. Smith, Jun., who carries out the duties of his office with courtesy and thoroughness.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT A. LAWTON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Poole, January 8th, 1896.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Diseases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1895, in the Poole Urban Sanitary District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	
Borough of Poole... ..	15438	17050	497

New Cases of Sickness in each locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such Cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Aged Under 5 or Over 5.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.
Borough of Poole ...	Under 5	7	2	...	1	...	...
	5 upward	18	16	5	26	1	1

Table of Deaths during the year 1895, in the Poole Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Borough of Poole	258	63	19	5	16	83	72	

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

	Scarlatina.	Membranous Group.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Under 5 ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	15	...	1	5	56	82
5 upwards ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	21	26	12	5	10	96	176

Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto. Scarlatina (5 upwards), 1.

TO THE POOLE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1895, and in so doing have much pleasure in again being able to give a very satisfactory account of the healthy condition of the seamen on board of the vessels which have entered and left the Port of Poole during the year.

No case of Infectious Disease has been either certified or notified.

Cholera.—No special precautions were needed this year, as no vessel from a cholera-infected littoral entered the Port.

The same inspections of vessels by the Harbour Authorities, Board of Trade and Customs Officials, have been made as in previous years.

Inspections.—The number of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 192. Of this number, 138 (*i.e.*, 116 British and 22 Foreign) were classed as “good;” 51 (*i.e.*, 47 British and 4 Foreign) were classed as “fair;” while only 3 British were classed as “dirty,” and were required to be scrubbed and cleaned.

Deaths.—Five Deaths were registered as having occurred within the Port of Poole, viz. :—

- 1.—Male aged 47 years. Found drowned. April 28th.
- 2.—Female „ 24 „ Accidentally drowned. May 6th.
- 3.— „ „ 23 „ „ „ „ „
- 4.—Male, „ 6 months. Murdered and placed in waters of Poole Harbour. May 28th.
- 5.— „ „ 17 years. Accidentally drowned. July 27th.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT A. LAWTON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Poole, January 8th, 1896.

